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United States Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

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ACTION MEMORANDUM
CONFIDENTIAL S/S 2/16
TO: The Secretary

FROM: EAP - Gaston Sigur 2/15 FEB - 6 1989

SUBJECT: Proposed Visit of Chinese Politburo Member Wan Li

ISSUE FOR DECISION

Whether to send the attached memorandum recommending to the White House that Vice President Quayle host the proposed May 1989 visit to the US of Wan Li, ranking Politburo member and Chairman of the National People's Congress.

ESSENTIAL FACTORS

... visit the US after concluding an official visit to Canada in May. A leading figure in China's important reform program, Wan is close to China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping and is a respected member of China's "old guard." Wan has long known the President personally and was one of his principal hosting officials during his 1985 Vice Presidential visit.

High level Sino-US visits carry special symbolic importance in this first year of the Bush Administration which is also the year of the planned Deng-Gorbachev summit. The Chinese have indicated they expect Wan Li to be their highest ranking official visitor of the year to the US, and have asked if the Vice President could be his official host. This would be appropriate given Wan Li's high rank as a Politburo member and his position as Chairman of the National People's Congress. The Chinese have proposed that Wan enter the US on May 21 or 22 for a trip of about seven days to include Baltimore, New York, and Chicago in addition to Washington. The Vice President's actual hosting functions could be limited to a meeting at the White House and a ceremonial lunch or dinner.

We believe that a positive response to China on this visit would help sustain the positive tone in our relations that will result from the President's China trip at the end of this month.

RECOMMENDATION

That the attached memorandum be sent to the White House recommending that the Vice President host a May visit by Wan Li.

Approve

Disapprove

2/21/89

CONFIDENTIAL
DECL: OADR

Date: 3-15-94

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ED Changes

Responsible info